

will be one of the new departures. The spacious grounds will permit of unusual garden effects toward Chelsea. Plans call for a start on the foundations before September.

The present excursion district, between Georgia and Mississippi avenues, has been entirely transformed by the introduction of the Renaissance Park, taking in the entire block from the Boardwalk to Pacific avenue, with the Reading and Pennsylvania excursion lines running in on each side. The splendidly furnished park, with its 30,000,000 in the project, which has replaced unsightly bowery shacks, long an eyesore to that section.

Completion of the new Ritz-Carlton has added another splendid hotel to the Chelsea Boardwalk. That huge brick and concrete caravansary at Iowa avenue and the Esplanade has been a welcome addition to the beachfront hospitality centers, and is but another monument to the implicit confidence financiers have in the resort's future.

Just below the Ambassador interests have thrown open a new wing to handle the growing patronage of the original Ambassador. Its Venetian Garden has become a social center since its doors swung wide, as supplying the guests of the hotel with a delightful rendezvous for their social affairs. The salt-water swimming tank of the Ambassador is popular, and weekly and monthly programs are features that draw hundreds of fashionable to the natatorium.

**New Arcade Stores Planned**

The Haddon Hall-Chalfonte interests have won public approval with the new arcade system they have used in the construction of stores along the Boardwalk in front of the Haddon Hall at North Carolina avenue. The shops have been set back fifteen feet from the property line and, running back to the original hotel, give a new wing to handle the growing patronage of the original Ambassador. The idea made a hit with national exhibitors and the stores were quickly rented as display centers.

Vernon Hall, a convention and ball room, built above the shops, has been another inviting feature installed by this company, giving the central section of the esplanade another attraction that has added in the entertainment facilities of the beachfront. It is reported that another hotel will rise above the stores within the next two years as a wing to the two controlled by the present company.

At States avenue a syndicate is preparing to launch the Knickerbocker Hotel, taking in the site now occupied by Denzel's carousel, for years a landmark at this point. Plans for this structure were drawn early in the spring and the rumors along the upper Boardwalk have it that the new project will be started some time in September.

Another Boardwalk improvement in-

volving millions is said to be about ready for public announcement. This centers around Young's old pier at Tennessee avenue, now held by hotelmen. It is reported the famous old structure, which was badly damaged by fire some years ago, is to be rebuilt into the largest exhibit pier along the Atlantic seaboard to meet the growing demand for display space from national advertisers. Plans now under discussion call for a circular building in front around which roller chairs may be run, with amusement enterprises running out toward the end over the sea.

A convention hall is talked of for the second and third floors of the exhibition hall in front, a system of doors being installed to permit shaping the meeting auditoriums to any size desired. It is expected that definite plans will be announced within the next three months.

Two other big improvements are to be made at either end of the resort. The old inlet park, for years a sport center, has been purchased by interests who figure on putting up a hotel and park taking in a city block facing the boardwalk and running back the same distance toward New Hampshire avenue. The property was sold by the Pennsylvania Railroad last month.

Down at Albany avenue, just across the bridge at the city end of the meadow boulevard, the big airport, first of its kind ever constructed, is to be the site of the National Stadium, a gigantic bowl of concrete that will be equipped with facilities for every sport. Jack Dempsey is now using the port as his training quarters, but in the fall work is to be started on the bowl.

One of the first features to be installed will be a hundred-foot-wide automobile track and a tenth in length, giving one of the fastest racing speedways in the world. The inside of the grounds will be turned over for big athletic carnivals, such as international games, football games and the sort. The projects are now negotiating for the Army-Navy gridiron contest and also are seeking major college games that are played on neutral grounds. The announced plan call for an establishment costing \$3,000,000, two-thirds of which has already been subscribed.

**Boom in Inlet Section**

About the inlet district there are other signs of the boom times that have hit the resort. The city has completed public wharves along the harbor on which it has expended \$100,000 as a means of encouraging both pleasure and

commercial boat traffic into the port. Visiting craft are permitted to tie up at the wharves for twenty-four hours without charge and the tariff for longer mooring is nominal, merely enough to carry the improvement. The city maintains police protection around the harbor, both on land and water.

Recent decision of the Federal Government to have a survey made of the inlet with a view of ascertaining the costs for a permanent twenty-foot channel has attracted the attention of freight and passenger steamship companies, and two have obtained options on tracts fronting on the harbor for docking purposes in readiness to open regular lines between this resort, Philadelphia, New York and Baltimore should the Government decide to carry through the deeper-harbor idea.

Members of the Rivers and Harbors Committee of both the Senate and House, together with the district engineers of the War Department, were the guests of the city recently on an inspection tour of the inlet and were

deeply impressed with the effort made by the municipality to make Absecon Inlet a real harbor. Figures submitted at that time apparently clinched the city's fight and the Chamber of Commerce and city officials, who have been carrying on the campaign for further Federal assistance, are confident the battle is won. The Federal dredge Absecon, originally constructed for work at this inlet, is now in the harbor awaiting instructions.

The passenger and freight activities are not confined to the land. One sky line, with seaplanes capable of carrying twenty passengers, already is in operation with two ships and in another two weeks will have a dozen operating on regular schedule between New York and the shore, using the upper beach as a landing station. The success of the over-the-ocean flying has been demonstrated in the last five years when regular passenger lines have been plying on short runs along the beachfront with reserve planes on hand for trips

anywhere in the country, either by land or water at the Curtiss plant.

**Pageant Plans Under Way**

Plans are fast shaping up for the second annual pageant, booked this year on September 7 and 8. Committees of representative hotel and business men have been busy since the first of the year working out the details. Just now they are conducting a popular voting contest for the election

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